

Serial No.: 10/732,937  
Inventor(s): Bridges et al.

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U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280  
Case No.: 5505B

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:  
forming at least one higher melting thread comprising at least one higher melting point fiber constituent, wherein the higher melting point constituent is non-continuous;  
passing said higher melting thread through at least one of a doubling ~~or~~ and winding process wherein a lower melting point thread is added;  
at least one of spinning ~~or~~ and twisting the higher melting thread and the lower melting thread to form a combined thread;  
heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt thread to form a heated combined thread;  
tufting said heated combined thread in ~~the~~ a carpet backing to form ~~the~~ a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet with a jet dye machine.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread is heated to a temperature of about 60°C to about 160°C.

7. (Original) The carpet of claim 6 wherein said temperature is no more than about 120°C.

8. (Original) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said low melt fiber comprises polyamide.

9. (Original) The carpet of claim 8 wherein said polyamide is selected from a group consisting of nylon 6,6 and nylon 6.

10. (Original) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting point fiber constituent is selected from the group consisting of nylon, wool, polyester, polypropylene, and blends thereof.

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11. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said printing is carried out by the jet dye machine in a pixelate fashion.

12. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting point fiber constituent is at least one of nylon and wool.

13. (Original) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting point fiber constituent is a nylon wool blend.

14. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread has a yarn count of about 1.0 to about 5.0.

15. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread has a yarn count of about 2.

16. (Original) The carpet of claim 12 comprising about 8 to about 28 denier per filament for nylon.

17. (Original) The carpet of claim 12 wherein said wool is about 25 to about 40 microns.

18. (Original) The carpet of claim 12 wherein said wool is about 38 microns.

19. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting thread has a yarn count of about 0.5 to about 8.0.

20. (Original) The carpet of claim 19 wherein said yarn count is about 3.

21. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread has about 1 to about 10 twist per inch.

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22. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 21 wherein said combined thread has about 5 twist per inch.

23. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 22 wherein said combined thread is a 1 to 4 ply.

24. (Original) The carpet of claim 21 wherein said thread is plied nylon with about 4.5 twist per inch.

25. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting thread has about 6-25 denier per filament.

26. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 25 wherein said higher melting thread has about 19 denier per filament.

27. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 25 wherein said higher melting thread has 1 to 4 ply.

28. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 27 wherein said higher melting thread is 2 ply.

29. (Withdrawn) A process for forming printed carpet comprising the steps of:  
forming a thread comprising low melt fiber and a higher melting point fiber  
constituent;

heating said thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt fiber;  
tufting said thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet after heating.

30. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:  
forming a thread comprising a higher melting point staple fiber;

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passing said thread through at least one of a doubling or and winding process wherein a lower melting point filament is added;

at least one of spinning or and twisting the thread and the filament to form a combined thread;

heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt filament to form a heated combined thread fiber;

tufting said heated combined thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and printing an image on said tufted carpet with a jet dye machine.

31. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:

forming a higher melting thread from at least a first higher melting fiber constituent and a wool fiber constituent;

passing said higher melting thread through at least one of a doubling or and winding process wherein at least one of a lower melting point fiber or and thread is added;

spinning to form a combined thread;

heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said lower melting point fiber or thread to form a heated combined thread;

~~after heating~~ tufting said heated combined thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and

printing an image on said tufted carpet with a jet dye machine.

32. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:

forming a thread from at least a first higher melting fiber constituent;

passing said thread through a ring spinning process wherein a lower melting point fiber is added to said thread to form a combined thread;

heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said lower melting point fiber to form a heated combined thread;

tufting said heated combined thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and printing an image on said tufted carpet in a pixelate fashion, wherein the image printed is a pattern.

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33. (Withdrawn) A process for forming jet dyed patterned carpet comprising the steps of:

forming a blended fiber comprising a low melt fiber and a high melt fiber;  
forming a thread of said blended fiber;  
heating said thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt fiber;  
tufting said thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet using a jet dye machine.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1, wherein the tufted carpet is at least one of cut pile, loop pile, cut and loop pile, broadloom, carpet tile, area rugs, and runners.

36. (Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 31, wherein the tufted carpet is at least one of cut pile, loop pile, cut and loop pile, broadloom, carpet tile, area rugs, and runners, ~~tufted carpet, and bonded carpet.~~

37. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1, wherein the lower melting point thread comprises lower melting point continuous fiber.

38. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1, wherein the lower melting point thread comprises lower melting point staple fibers.

39. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 31, wherein said higher melting thread comprises approximately 75% by weight nylon fibers and approximately 25% by weight wool fibers.

40. (New) The carpet of claim 30, wherein the tufted carpet is at least one of cut pile, loop pile, cut and loop pile, broadloom, carpet tile, area rugs, and runners.

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41. (New) The carpet of claim 32, wherein the tufted carpet is at least one of cut pile, loop pile, cut and loop pile, broadloom, carpet tile, area rugs, and runners.